

General Education Pilot
California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST)
June 2003
Executive Summary

The *California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST)* was administered to a random sample of 20% of Motlow State Community College's (MSCC's) spring 2003 graduates. Sub-scores in analysis, evaluation, and inference were obtained from the CCTST. A portion of the CCTST also evaluated deductive and inductive reasoning. MSCC students overall mean score was 16.115; last year the overall mean score was 11.025. The two-year college norm mean score was 14.612. Students did much better on the CCTST this year than students have in past years. The college implemented changes which may have contributed to the improvement in scores this year. This year, the test was administered in a larger, more modern room; orientation to the test was enhanced; faculty attended a roundtable discussion of critical thinking skills; and a new version of the test, Form 2000, was administered. The roundtable discussion was led by Dr. Jay Pilzer. Dr. Pilzer teaches history and critical thinking courses at Motlow.

Motlow students' scores this year compared to those of last year follow:

		N	Mean	Median	TrMean	StDev	SE Mean
2003	Total	87	16.115	17.000	16.127	4.439	0.476
2002	Total	80	11.025	11.000	10.847	3.536	0.395
2003	Anal	87	4.379	4.000	4.418	1.358	0.146
2002	Anal	80	3.300	3.000	3.278	1.344	0.150
2003	Eval	87	4.322	4.000	4.278	1.956	0.210
2002	Eval	80	4.287	4.000	4.278	1.956	0.210
2003	Infer	87	7.414	7.000	7.392	2.375	0.255
2002	Infer	80	3.437	3.000	3.333	1.941	0.217
2003	Deduc	87	6.540	6.000	6.494	2.605	0.279
2002	Deduc	80	4.975	5.000	4.889	2.365	0.264
2003	Induc	87	9.575	10.000	9.595	2.568	0.275
2002	Induc	80	4.625	4.500	4.528	1.851	0.207

Motlow students' scores were between the 69th and 76th percentiles.

Minimum and maximum scores and quartiles 1 and 3 for 2003 follow:

Variable	Minimum	Maximum	Q1	Q3
Induc	3.000	15.000	8.000	11.000
Deduc	1.000	14.000	4.000	8.000
Anal	1.000	7.000	3.000	5.000
Infer	3.000	13.000	6.000	9.000
Eval	0.000	10.000	3.000	5.000
TOTAL	7.000	27.000	12.000	19.000

The General Education Pilot Committee is in place to discuss and review the results of the General Education Pilot. In addition, results of the summary report are submitted to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, all academic deans, and the Director of the Developmental Studies Program.

Results of statistical programs that have been run indicate a Pearson correlation between students' College Basic Academic Subjects Examination (CBASE) scores and CCTST scores of .625, and the correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). The Pearson correlation between students' ACT scores and the total CCTST mean score was .562, and the correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). Students' high school grade point average data was not normally distributed.

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